

BOGNOR REGIS  
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS  
DECEMBER 2001

RAINFALL

31.9mm (1.26ins) on 12 days.  
Greatest fall in 24 hours (09-09h) - 9.1mm (0.36ins) on 4th.  
December 2000 total rainfall - 118.4mm (4.66ins) on 20 days.  
January to December 2001 - 746.7mm (29.40ins)  
January to December 2000 - 1045.5mm (41.16ins)

TEMPERATURES

Highest Maximum	-	13.8°C (56.8°F)	on 5th.
Lowest Maximum	-	3.0°C (37.4°F)	on 29th.
Highest Minimum	-	11.5°C (52.7°F)	on 1st.
Lowest Minimum	-	-2.0°C (28.4°F)	on 23rd & 31st.
Lowest Grass	-	-6.0°C (21.2°F)	on 22nd.

SUNSHINE

December 2001 - 115.1 hours on 27 days.  
December 2000 - 50.8 hours on 18 days.  
Maximum sunshine in 24 hours - 7.4 hours on 10th.  
January to December 2001 - 1908.9 hours.  
January to December 2000 - 1812.7 hours.

SUMMARY

The weather during December, for the second consecutive month, was mainly dominated by high pressure. As a result, the weather was generally settled with light to moderate winds, long dry periods, and many days of unbroken sunshine. The total sunshine hours for the month was the highest since records began. However, high pressure this time of the year is synonymous with low night temperatures which made December with a total of 20 ground frosts one of the coldest since 1976.

The month began on an unsettled note with frontal activity bringing rain to the area during the nights 3/4 and 4/5. There were strong winds during the morning of the 5th but temperatures remained rather mild although sunshine was in short supply. On 6th, high pressure took over and the weather became more settled. The high pressure continued to dominate the weather scene without a break through to the 21st. During this time it remained dry, temperatures dropped to single figures by day and to sub zero by night, and with the wind direction from the northern quadrant, there were many cold days, although there was some compensation with many days of unbroken sunshine. During the night 24/25 the first rainfall for 18 days was recorded (0.4mm). The weather continued to be dominated by low pressure with snow showers passing through the area during the early hours of 28/29 leaving a light blanket of snow by daybreak which had disappeared by lunchtime. High pressure returned on 31st to end the year on a very cold but dry sunny day.

The rainfall total of 31.9mm was well below the seasonal average of 75.54mm and the driest since 1996 (23.4mm).

The sunshine total of 115.1 hours was far in excess of the seasonal average of 62.3 hours and the sunniest December since records began.

The mean maximum temperature of 7.4°C and mean minimum of 2.4°C were both well below their respective seasonal averages of 8.7°C and 4.2°C.

A.E.S.

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